

AN

ORATION,

PRONOUNCED AT WINDSOR,

BEFORE A NUMEROUS COLLECTION OF REPUBLICANS,

ON THEIR

CELEBRATION

OF THE

THIRTY EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY

OF

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

BY JOHN CHAMPLIN THOMPSON, Esq.

WINDSOR, (Vt.)

PRINTED BY JESSE COCHRAN.

1814.

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Office

Windsor, July 4th, 1814.

SIR;

In behalf of the Committee of arrangements for the celebration of the thirty-eighth anniversary of American Independence, I have the pleasure to return you their thanks for the Oration you have this day pronounced, and to request a copy for publication.

I avail myself of this opportunity to assure you, that the expression of the other gentlemen of the Committee, perfectly coincides with my own.

With esteem I am, Sir, respectfully yours,

WILLIAM HUNTER,
*Chairman of the
Committee of arrangements.*

J. C. THOMPSON, Esq.



July 11th, 1814.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave to assure you that I am deeply sensible of the honor done me by requesting a copy of my Oration, delivered on the 4th inst. for the press.

Though I am aware of many defects in that performance, I have thought proper to comply with your request, and hereby place a copy at your disposal.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully,
your humble servant,

J. C. THOMPSON.

HON. WILLIAM HUNTER,
*and other gentlemen of
the Committee of arrangements.*

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June 14 1814

AN
ORATION,

REPUBLICANS AND
FELLOW-CITIZENS.

WE have assembled to commemorate the birth day of our Nation at a crisis, big with important events. The decisive moment is at hand, when AMERICA must contend, perhaps alone, as the avenger of universal justice. The grand exhibition on the theatre of Europe is at last closed, a continental peace is at hand, and the veteran troops who have been actors in this tragedy are destined, as the executors of British vengeance, to reduce the United States to "*unconditional submission.*" But, thank God, we are yet *free*. Notwithstanding the storms which have long agitated and convulsed the world, we yet exercise the invaluable rights of sovereign and independent Nations, and enjoy the blessings that emanate from our happy government—the only *republican* government which has been preserved from the revolutions of time, and the wreck of Empires.

Let it then be our delightful duty on this auspicious day, to inquire whence, under God, these blessings came, and how they may be transmitted, unimpaired, to posterity. And in the performance of this duty we will hail the genius of liberty and rejoice that we have not condescended to do homage to a despot, and, in the habiliments of slaves,

to render thanks for our lives which he might graciously vouchsafe to spare ; but under the triumphant banners of freedom, to celebrate a day on which tyrants were confounded.

Having the honor to address you on this interesting occasion, my imperfections will claim all the charity which your indulgent spirit can exercise. Your good sense must have taught you to expect nothing *new*. Nothing could be offered that would compensate your attention, did not the great events of the day furnish a theme.

The present situation of our beloved country demands the united energies of freemen. We may indeed view with mingled sensations of pleasure and pain, with rapture and astonishment, the brilliant achievements and disastrous scenes of the revolution, that broke the colossal chains of slavery, emancipated America, and ushered into the political world a mighty empire.

But this is not *all* our duty. The heritage of our fathers is worth preserving. It is therefore incumbent on us to avert the dangers which threaten it.—To cherish it as a gift from heaven—to guard and defend it from the encroachments of foreign power, and the turbulence of domestic faction.

The declaration of independence, which has just been read, recites the causes that impelled the fathers of our country, supported and approbated by Heaven, to assert with calmness and dignity the most sacred rights of man. It arranges in order the multiplied and accumulating abuses of the parent state, to which they looked with loyalty and solicitude for justice and protection.

When petitioning and remonstrating had failed ; when appeals to her “ native justice and magnanimity ” had proved worse than useless, America rose indignant, and the Green of Lexington was crimsoned by the first blood shed in the great drama.

There are probably some in this crowded assembly, whose locks are whitened by the frosts of many winters, who were actors in that eventful struggle, which the exercises of this day must bring, forcibly, to their recollection. Such, my fellow youth, whom we delight to honor as living monuments of revolutionary virtue, can go with us while, in imagination, we pass through those times of peril and calamity that “tried men’s souls.” While we view the fields where patriots toiled, bled, and triumphed, and with hallowed steps tread amongst the tombs of devoted heroes. With us they can ascend the battlements where MONTGOMERY fell, or gaze with solemnity on the plains where WASHINGTON conquered.

I do not advert to these sanguinary scenes to play upon the feelings, but to remind us of our obligations and our ability. Blood-stained fields, conflagrated villages and cities, exhibit the *price* of our liberty. Alternate hopes and fears, successes and disasters, admonish us of the necessity of *perseverance*; The issue affords a convincing proof, that a people, *unitedly willing to be free*, can not easily be enslaved.

From the close of the revolution the American freemen marched rapidly to wealth and fame. The United States soon commanded the respect, the attention, and the admiration of the world. Patriots who had labored and bled to secure the rights of men, retired from the field of battle to enjoy them. These rights were by government acknowledged, and as far as practicable, protected & secured. Our canvass was unfurled & expanded on every sea; And while our flag was respected, our commerce produced a rich harvest of national wealth.

We are yet comparatively prosperous and happy. How delightful is the employment, to contrast our fortune, since our national existence, with

that of *other* nations. The empires of Europe have been torn, convulsed, and drenched in blood; But America, favored of Heaven, has been saved from desolating faction; the horrors of revolution; and the violent storms of a world in arms.

Other Republican governments, like the ruined tower, have crumbled to dust, but ours has survived, and yet remains a striking evidence of its own superior excellence.

A glance at the stupendous scenes in Europe, since our revolution, will teach us properly to estimate our happiness, and most devoutly to thank the great ARBITER of nations, for the salvation of our country from a universal deluge of crimes and miseries.

Frenchmen, who had taken a part in the American revolution, had imbibed the spirit of freemen; and having returned home with republican principles implanted in their bosoms, and hearts expanding with the love of liberty, began to pull down the pillars of a government, "cemented by ages of despotism." Their motives were at that time of the most pure and exalted nature. Their first exertions were made to relieve the victims of royal vengeance. The Bastille, that ungodly engine of despotism, was unbarred, and its wretched inhabitants who had long groaned in its dungeons, admitted to the light of Heaven and the enjoyment of the world.

Had they progressed with that spirit, France had yet been free. But the sudden burst of liberty upon a people, long bound in the fetters of slavery, was insupportable. Enthusiasm and misguided zeal urged them to the most awful and dreadful extremities, and again sunk them under the scourge of a tyrant.

The astonishing consequences of the French revolution have excited universal attention.

England, professing great love for the "Legiti-

mate kings” and “venerable institutions” of Europe, enlisted all her sympathy for fallen despotism ; and a powerful coalition was soon formed, *destined* for its re-establishment. England, Holland, Prussia, Austria, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain and Portugal, confederated to annihilate the French Republic, which had but just risen from the ashes of monarchy. The Republic by the most astonishing exertions triumphed over this combination of powers, and covered Europe with carnage. But this only paved the way for military despotism and imperial supremacy at home. Napoleon Bonaparte, whose career is without example in modern history, soon became a military chief, and the destinies of France were subject to his supreme control.

But his power has extended beyond the boundaries of France. His motion, like the nod of Jove, has shaken the world to its centre. By his energies monarchs have been prostrated ; constitutions and governments annihilated ; and thrones, kingdoms, and empires, dashed to atoms.

The early successes of the French Republic were succeeded by the most bloody operations. Emperors and kings have been deposed, imprisoned, and assassinated to make room for others.

Poland has been overwhelmed with destruction, struck from the map of Europe, and a second time partitioned among its ruthless conquerors. Italy has twice been conquered. The Republics of Lucca, Venice and Genoa, have been annihilated. Holland has been annexed to France. Three times has the law been dictated to Germany,* and the constitution of *that* empire at last annihilated. In a word a second coalition has been formed for the destruction of the French *Empire*, but bro-

* At Campo Formio, Oct. 97. At Luneville, February 1801. At Vienna, Octo, 1809.

ken to fragments at the battle of Austerlitz ; The power of the Prussian Monarch destroyed on the plains of Jena, and continental Europe, a second time, laid at the feet of France.

But the work of devastation and death does not end here. The ambitious Bonaparte was not yet satisfied. To ride triumphantly in the car of victory, over desolated Europe, while whole nations followed captive in his train, was not sufficient for *him*,—His ambition contemplated the exclusion of British commerce from the continent. But his grand project has been defeated. A *third* coalition has been formed, and after literally washing Europe with blood, and filling the world with dismay, assisted by stratagems and treasons, the severity of the elements, and the flames of the Russian capital, has victoriously entered Paris and produced a counter-revolution in France. And herein is completed the great work of the Allies. The prime object of Great Britain is at last accomplished ; A “legitimate king” is established on the throne of his ancestors, *and France has a change of Masters*. Thus have millions been slaughtered, thus has creation groaned, to establish a poor, weak, pusillanimous king, on the abdicated throne of NAPOLEON.

During this clashing of the nations of Europe, America has been travelling the high road to eminence. But the sun of her prosperity has been often obscured by clouds of adversity. The storm, long gathering on her political horizon, is now beating. The Tocsin of war has sounded and America is in arms !—In arms to save her independence while tottering on the brink of ruin—to pluck it from the rude grasp of British tyrants.

The abuses which have driven us to this dreadful, but unavoidable resort, are perfectly understood ; but till amply atoned for must never be forgotten. Though you have often heard them

enumerated and explained, I beg your indulgence a moment, while I exhibit the inveterate, deep rooted, and persevering enmity of Great Britain.

From the moment she sealed the acknowledgement of our sovereignty, she has, with different hopes of success, unceasingly meditated our subjugation. The acknowledgement, was with her Ministry an act of *necessity* and not of *choice*. She was at that time contending, not against her colonies only, but against Holland, France and Spain. His Majesty therefore, no longer *able* to trample on the rights of his American subjects, was *compelled* to acknowledge, and in some degree, to respect them. But the very hand by which he signed the treaty of peace was extended, before the ink was dry, in a violent infraction of its provisions. In direct violation of the 7th article, the British retained possession of the garrisons on the Northern frontier. In violation of the law of God and man, they armed and instigated the merciless savage to deeds of cruelty, that shock every civilized being but an *Englishman*.* That the savages on our frontiers have been encouraged in their barbarous murders, by British agents and British presents, I assert without fear of contradiction. The scalp of one of our fellow citizens, who had been immolated on the altar of British vengeance, has been ostentatiously displayed to grace the Legislative Hall of Upper Canada. — And this too by a nation, boasting of its humanity, and hailed as the “BULWARK” of the benevolent religion of JESUS! The turpitude, the tremendous consequences of this interference, need no comment. The wrath of vindictive God must await the savage wretch, whether *red* or

* For the honor of my country, I could wish that the word Englishman did not necessarily comprehend many who are Americans by birth, but Englishmen at heart. But it is a lamentable fact, that many among us have viewed the scalping and butchering, of our frontier inhabitants, by British and Indian savages, with apparent indifference; or, engaging all their sympathy for these murderers, have palliated and justified their most barbarous outrages.

white, that can deliberately dye his hands in human blood.

No *new* attack was immediately made on our rights. The British vainly imagined that the people, tossing on the billows of internal commotion, would soon discover their incompetency to govern themselves, & gladly call on them for protection. The adoption of the new constitution dissipated, like a shadow, these chimerical speculations, and taught them that forbearance was not likely to effect their object.

But villany is ever fruitful in expedients. The rights of *neutrality* were next to be attacked. For this purpose, substituting naval power for maritime right, they began to spread their commercial toils to entrap our commerce, and exclude us from the highway of nations. Armed with naval supremacy, they trampled with sovereign contempt on the Law of God, as applied to nations, and their avaricious cupidity preyed, like the Vultur of Numidia, upon our commercial prosperity.

Some of the most prominent, and universally acknowledged principles of the maritime law of nations are, *that free ships make free goods; that neutral vessels have a right to navigate freely, from port to port, on the coasts of the powers at war; that the effects of belligerent subjects, (excepting contraband) and the subjects themselves, (excepting military persons in actual service) shall be free in neutral vessels: that no blockade can be justifiable, unless it be supported by an adequate force, destined to maintain it, and to expose to hazard all vessels attempting to evade its operations; that the blockade must be of particular ports, actually invested; and that vessels attempting to enter such ports, shall not be captured, unless they shall have been previously warned not to enter them.*

The important principle, that free ships make free goods, is perhaps as old as commerce. The

memorable Treaty of Utrecht, that settled all the commercial difficulties of Europe, made between Great Britain and France in 1713, and renewed in 1763, expressly acknowledged and recited this principle, so essential to the safety of neutral commerce. It was acknowledged in the treaty of '63, between Great Britain and Spain. It was introduced into the treaty of the former with Russia in '66, with Holland in '88, and into her treaties with Sweden and Denmark. It is the principle for which Russia, Denmark, Holland, Sweden, Austria, France, Spain, Prussia, and the United States, contended in 1780. It was the great and fundamental principle of the ARMED NEUTRALITY of Russia and Denmark, established at Copenhagen in 1780, and acceded to by Sweden, the United Provinces and other commercial nations. It may be found in the Treaty of the United States, concluded with France in '78, with Holland in '82, with Sweden in '83, and with Prussia in '85. It is sanctioned by the immemorial usage of Nations. It even received, *indirectly*, the sanction of *federalism* in the Senate of the United States in 1805. Its infractions have always resulted from the plenitude of power and the weakness of neutrals. Great Britain, while subject to the naval power of Spain, complained most bitterly and indignantly against the "right of search" for goods; But soon enabled to deduce the *right* from her *ability*, she pursued the same course which she had so strenuously condemned in others, and has at length unhesitatingly enumerated this abrupt departure from nature's law, amongst her "maritime rights"

I am thus particular on this point, because to this departure, and the unwarrantable extension of the system of blockade, may be attributed the annihilation of the neutrality of Europe, and the almost total exclusion of the American commerce from the ocean.

The present extravagant claim of our enemy may be traced to the rule of '56—The rule of His Britannic Majesty's prize court. At that time the *universal* law of nations began to give place to the *municipal* regulations of Great Britain. George the III. considering his *edict* a rule by which independent nations must govern their commercial intercourse, declared, "*that what was not found (relative to this intercourse) permitted in the instructions given by his prize court, was, of course, understood to be prohibited.*" Thus modestly assuming the control of the ocean, he ascended the throne of naval power, and, like Jupiter from Olympus, hurled the thunder bolts of his wrath, at all who had the presumption to exceed his *Royal permission*.

Here is the origin of the preposterous claim of the "*right of search*" for goods; having no argument to support it, but the thunder of British artillery.

Relying on the protection of the law of nations, the American flag was early hoisted in every port, and our canvases spread as extensively as the ocean. But a spirit of commercial monopoly, fostered by lawless ambition, and supported by power, soon began to spread its fatal influence. In violation of the principles which I have before enumerated, Great Britain, as early as '93, made an order of council, by virtue of which her vessels of war were "to stop and detain all vessels, laden with goods, the produce of any French colony, or carrying provisions or other supplies to any such colony." The order was scrupulously executed, and American vessels were captured and condemned with little ceremony. The United States were on the eve of war, but the treaty of '94 partially healed this wound upon our national honor and interest; and peace, on *our* part, continued. But Great Britain did not loose fight

of the great object in view. In '98 she prohibited neutral trade with the colonies and settlements of Holland, France, and Spain.

The same monopolizing spirit, sharpened by the conflicting interests of Great Britain and France, led to the *paper* blockade of May 1806; by virtue of which the continent, from the ELBE to BREST, was *theoretically* invested with a British fleet.

Bonaparte, then Master of the continent, forgetting his impotency on the ocean, in his zeal to wreak his vengeance on its proud Mistress, at the expence of honest neutrality thundered his decree from a foreign capital, blockading the British Islands.

One more bold *paper* exhibition gave the fatal blow to our already shattered commerce.

Under the orders in Council of 1807, blockading nearly the whole continent of Europe, American vessels were frequently captured and condemned without attempting to enter the ports, thus *illegally* blockaded, and seized and annoyed even while within our own jurisdiction.

From the first attack on our commerce, till the declaration of war, 917 American vessels were sacrificed to the commercial avarice of the British nation. This havoc will long be remembered by every one, who does not slumber in forgetfulness to justify the despoilers of his country.

A departure from the principle that "free ships make free" *men*, has been followed by consequences still more serious and disastrous.

The right of search for *men* has never been *acknowledged* by any nation, nor has it ever been *claimed* by any but Great Britain, nor by *her* till since the close of our revolution. It is a monstrous claim that originated in power, and which has been supported thus far by the all prevailing argument of British cannon. A claim so prepos-

terous and humiliating in principle ; so cruel in execution ; and so awful in its consequences, never can be admitted by a sovereign nation. *America* shall deny its justice till her soil “ shall melt with fervent heat.”

To execute this claim, the petty officers of the British navy have long been in the habit of entering our vessels on the high seas, and even in our harbors, claiming the right to seize and carry into their service, not *British* born subjects only, but all who were not *Americans*, whether Sweeds, Russians, Prussians, Germans, Dutch, Italians, or Africans : And though they have not directly *claimed* the right, they have *persevered* in the practice, of taking *native Americans* ; and thousands, and tens of thousands of our fellow-citizens, have been hurried into merciless captivity, supported by the hope, that after having spent the best part of their lives in disgraceful vassallage, and grown grey under the lash, being no longer serviceable to their masters, they should be graciously permitted to return to their native land to be *buried* in the soil of liberty. But alas ! even this sorry hope is not often realized. Many have groaned away a life in the floating engines of British tyranny. Many have fallen while fighting against their countrymen.—The deck of the *Epervier* was crimsoned by the blood of three American citizens. The bones of thousands of them are now decaying in the bottom of the Atlantic, or bleaching on its shores.

Should any advocate of British justice and humanity call for evidence of the truth of these remarks, I refer him to the declaration of Lord Castlereagh, in Parliament, *that his government then held sixteen hundred American seamen in slavery* ; and remind him that no less than twenty six were discovered under the flags of the *Peacock*, *Gurriere*, *Macedonean* & *Java*. Thus are they brought in sight

of their native country to fight, but fight in vain, to land on the shores of liberty. There is no liberty for them but that "which remains for the people of God"—"a liberty which the world cannot give, nor all the powers of Earth and Hell confederate, take away."

Against this crying injustice our government have expostulated, remonstrated, and menaced in vain. In vain have they appealed to the humanity of the British nation; In vain have they offered to remove every ground, urged as a necessity for the practice of impressment. They have borne till forbearance invited additional abuse. And what redress for past, what security against further abuses, have they received? The afflictions of dear relatives, the groans of wretched captives, and the voice of Heaven, furnish, *impressively* furnish the answer.

What have been the excuses for refusing to release American seamen from slavery? Look at an extract from the black and disgraceful catalogue.—"That they had no documents, or their protections were irregular; Had been released from *prison* in Gottenburgh; Were said to be imposters; Were not to be found on board the ships stated; Were natives of foreign countries, Prussia, Sweden, Italy, &c. Had *attempted* to desert." And they may now add, "made prisoners of war, contrary to the practice of every civilized nation."

Are there any present who think impressment of little consequence, and a *contemptible* cause of war? I invite such, for God's sake, to ponder this list of excuses again. Will you suffer yourselves to be insultingly told, when you demand the liberty of your countrymen, that they have not the evidence of their citizenship in their pockets, or that this evidence is *informal*? That they had *attempted* to flee from the most illegal and cruel bon-

dage, and therefore must continue under the scourge? That having been lashed like dogs through a British fleet, they had fainted and fallen in a ship, that did not happen to be the particular one stated to contain them? Will you—— But I forbear, I can pursue the subject no further. Gracious God, to what a state of degradation is my country reduced!

Did not these abuses, my friends, in language solemn as death, and loud as the thunders of Ætina, proclaim the necessity of war? Permit me then briefly to urge the propriety and necessity of continuing it.

The causes which impelled to the contest still exist. The conduct of the savage villains, who have prosecuted it on the part of the enemy, has stamped them with everlasting infamy and disgrace. The scalping and butchering at the River Rafin, the flames of Havre de Grace, and the ravages at Hampton, are imperishable monuments of British barbarity and outrage. The British have given us no assurance that they will ever cease to arm and instigate the ferocious savages; Then must British influence over them be destroyed, or our frontiers be forever dyed in blood.

The operation of the orders of council, as they regard America, is lost in the prosecution of the war; and the orders themselves have become a dead letter, in consequence of the countries, to which they were applied, having ceased to be hostile. But they have never been repealed. The British declaration of the 23d of June, 1812, contained a *conditional* repeal; But the condition never having been performed, the repealing instrument became void on the face of it. And many of the blockades, instituted by virtue of the order, have, within seven months, been raised in consequence of the places to which they were applied, being no longer under the dominion of France.

But whatever may have been their fate, the principle on which they were founded has never been abandoned. The right to carry them again into operation, or to issue others, was expressly declared by the instrument containing the conditional repeal. And should a treaty now be concluded, without stipulating against this claim, we may hereafter find that the "Lion is not dead but sleepeth," ready to rise at the command of his master and again seize his wonted prey.

The practice of impressment, like the operation of the orders of council, is merged in the war; But the subject remains unfettled, and the extravagant claims of our enemy are unabated. Most of the illfated mortals who have been caught in the snare of British injustice, have been made prisoners of war; Others have bled profusely, and died wretchedly, under the flag which has so often struck to the bravery of our tars.

Shall then the sword be sheathed before the objects be effected for which it was drawn? Shall our countrymen be abused, insulted, and murdered and our vengeance still loiter? Shall their groans reproach us because our indignation slumbers? No; The suffering prisoner, the voice of the people, & the voice of God demand our interposition. Let our arms be laid down, without relieving and securing the subjects of this abuse, and every eastern breeze, every Atlantic wave that rolls to our shores, will bear us a message, dreadful as the condemning rebukes of conscience.

Has our government done every thing practicable, consistent with honor and dignity, to bring the war to an honorable termination? This becomes an important inquiry. A reference to facts will exhibit, unimpaired, that pacific spirit which saved us from war till forbearance ceased to be a virtue.

No sooner was the sword drawn in defence of

our violated rights, than an armistice was proposed, on condition of a discontinuance of impressment, and a discharge of American seamen already impressed—a convincing proof that peace, without disgrace, was the object of the war. In the characteristic spirit and temper of the British Ministry, the proposal was ostentatiously rejected, and our government treated with contempt.

When a cessation of hostilities was proposed by Admiral Warren, nothing was urged as preliminary to its acceptance, but a suspension of this infamous practice, during the armistice, on condition that the United States should exclude British seamen from their employment; The President offering, at the same time, to enter into a discussion on the subject of impressment without an armistice. But this mode did not comport with the Admiral's views. He could not consent even to a *suspension* of man-stealing; and war continued.

In March 1813, a law was enacted in Congress prohibiting the employment of British seamen, and imposing heavy penalties on those who should violate it. This at once destroyed the foundation of the mighty plea of necessity, so long urged by Great Britain, and "her friends in America," and convinced *candid* men, that the object of impressment was to man the British navy with American seamen.

The prompt acceptance of the Russian mediation which Great Britain in her usual style of self importance refused, because her "maritime rights" must not be "*touched*," exhibits additional evidence of the President's attachment to peace, and his unceasing exertions to obtain it.

Our enemy, refusing the interposition of her intimate friend and Ally, proposed to treat *directly* at London or Gottcuburgh. This proposition was

met without delay, and measures immediately taken to carry the contemplated negotiation into effect. Thus has every honorable exertion, on our part, been made, calculated to restore the blessings of peace ; And every *other* expedient having failed, the justice of continuing war, as the *last*, is not to be doubted. There are but two alternatives—war and unqualified dependence.

In this dilemma, with the dearest interests of our country at stake, we find a class of our fellow citizens apparently ready for “unconditional submission;” prepared to surrender the independence, which cost the richest blood of a nation of freemen, and welcome the fatal embrace of tyranny. Modestly claiming “all the talents,” and “all the *religion*” in the country, they despond in melancholy at our success, rejoice with joy unspeakable at our failures, and style themselves the exclusive “*friends of peace.*” But before we submit *with* them, we will inquire who they are, and how consistently they claim this popular title.

They are the same characters who once thought Louisiana worth the *sacrifice of peace*, and after it had been peaceably acquired by fair purchase, for less than three cents per acre, thought it a desolate and worthless region, because (no doubt) it was not the “*price of blood.*” They are the same who talked loudly of war with England in '93, waged hostilities against France in '98 ; and deluged congress with petitions for decisive measures against Great Britain in 1806 ; modestly telling the government they could not “*be kicked into a war.*” The same who have so feelingly supported their claim to “all the *religion,*” by rejoicing, in solemn mockery, at the calamities of war in Europe, and inviting faction and rebellion at home. The same who wrap themselves in hypocrisy, sacrilegiously assume the character of the great and good

WASHINGTON, attach his benevolence to their names, but explode it from their hearts, and “remembering to forget their former hostile spirit, cry peace with the magnanimous “BULWARK,” and disgrace to our country. The same who dupe many an honest follower into a belief, that they are the *real* friends of peace, while ambition and treason “lurk in anxious hostility” in their bosoms. These are the characters who “in all the complacency of accomodating forgetfulness” now style themselves the “*peace party*,” and brand with infamy those who are bleeding in defence of their insulted country.

Shall we adopt the course pointed out by these lambs of peace, prostrate our sovereignty at the throne of George the third, and rely with humble confidence on his mercy, because they do not graciously approbate the war? Their disapprobation furnishes no evidence of its injustice. Their opposition to the administration has been *indiscriminate* for more than thirteen years. No republican officer has escaped the lash of their slander; No deportment of the government has been sufficiently correct to meet their approbation; No public measure has had their support. Justifying, palliating, or denying British aggressions, they have not hesitated to heap the vilest abuse on the soldier, who has fought, and bled, and fallen in *their* defence and for *their* benefit.

When the government have adopted pacific measures, their voice has been for *war*. When government appeal'd to arms, war was “unnecessary and ruinous.”

When the arrangement was made with Erskine, Mr. Madison was eulogised, and even *distinguished* as a *federalist*; New abuses were lavishly heaped upon his Predecessor, by declaring that the British government had long been ready and anxious to make the same arrangement. But when

this arrangement was *rejected*, these supple gentlemen changed their tune and sung another song. They declared the arrangement to have been an unauthorized act of the British minister; Madison became a subject of the most infamous calumny & was charged, *unblushingly* charged with having acted with a perfect knowledge of the fact. Here is an everlasting monument of federal *consistency* and British *faith*.

Do we want another instance of federal absurdity? The Russian mediation instantly presents itself for consideration. When report first published this interposition of the Emperor Alexander these characters hastily declared that the President would not accept it, because it might eventuate in *peace*; But no sooner did his conduct disappoint these lying heralds, than they pronounced the acceptance an act of folly and madness; And the epistles of the notorious Timothy Pickering were industriously circulated to shew, that Mr. Madison, when he accepted the mediation, knew *that* to be an unauthorized act of the *Russian* Minister. A "plain tale" has since defeated this object.

This same class of men condemned the war, at its commencement, because the nation was *unprepared* to prosecute it; *and, acknowledging its justice*, laid hold of every weapon calculated to destroy the public credit, obstruct enlistments, and encourage desertion to *prevent* a preparation.

It soon suited their purpose to pronounce it *unjust*; and Parish, Osgood, &co. were put in requisition to make the people believe it. These pious heralds, forgetting their sacred functions, thundered their anathemas from the *desk* in *security*; and every one who engaged in the war was pronounced "a murderer upon a large scale."

I have spoken of the federal party in general terms, but I feel myself bound to make many honorable exceptions. A great proportion of that

party regard with solicitude the welfare of their country ; but placing too much confidence in characters whose art enables them to practice deception, and who, like the *Ignis fatuus*, serve only to bewilder and mislead, they are unsuspectingly drawn into that policy, which militates against its best interests. I would not therefore indiscriminately arraign the conduct of that party, but recount, with honest indignation, the abuse of political demagogues, who “ would rather rule in Hell than serve in Heaven.”

Shall we despair because our arms have not been so successful as a heart too sanguine may have calculated ? Should we not rather exult that our troops, have acquired a reputation which affords the best evidence of eventual triumph ? The panders of faction and disorganization spend their sleepless nights and days, to make us believe that the war has disgraced our country. Heavens, what foul but feels indignant at the humiliating attempt ! Where is the British apologist that can point to an instance in which the American *soldiery* has been disgraced ? Has the spirited bravery that repulsed the attacks on Craney Island, Fort Meigs, Fort Stephenson, Sacket's Harbor and Oswego, disgraced them ? Shall the prowess that reduced Fort George, and shook the battlements of York to their base, receive no applause ? Shall the triumphs of the Brave Jackson and his fellow soldiers pass for defeat and disgrace ? Go to the tomb of the immortal Pike with such language—his genius shall arise and confound you. Has the youthful Perry, have Hull, Bainbridge, Jones, Decatur and other heroes, gathered no Laurels ? the crimsoned waves of Erie, the reddened billows of the Atlantic, and the broken charm of british naval invincibility, emphatically respond. Shall the brave but unfortunate Lawrence, whose dying injunction ought to be recorded on every

heart and adopted as the watch-word of our country, be insulted? The gratitude of that country forbids it.

Our enemy has been taught lessons of bravery and humanity. More than a thousand of her vessels have been captured in the short space of two years. The flag of our gallant little navy has, at the same moment, wantoned in the breezes of the Northern Sea, and the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The brilliant achievements of the war have established a character for the American Soldier, glorious as virtue, immortal as the soul. The faithful historian will record them. They will hereafter glitter on his page like the stars in heaven; and the wretches who would disgracefully mourn the triumph of their country, and rob the foldier of his glory, shall be unable to obscure them.

While the patriotic heart beats high for the honor of our country, we have serious reason to regret our failures and disappointments. And if we indulge in gratulation for success, and in sorrow for misfortune, let us profit by past experience. If we are reproached for the failure of the Canadian campaigns, let it be remembered, that to wrest the Canadas from the French, cost five campaigns of the veteran troops of England, and the assistance of her American colonies. The three first ended in defeat and disgrace. The fourth was prosecuted by a British force of 50 000 troops, aided by a fleet of 28 ships of the line & 18 frigates, against a French force of less than fifteen thousand, which but partially accomplished its object—It cost another bloody campaign to conquer the Canadas.

It will not be forgotten that the first years of the revolution dragged heavily, and produced nothing for America but defeat or transient triumphs. The revolutionary patriot, who now trembles over his grave, or lives only in the remembrance of a

grateful country, was often fatigued, exhausted and discouraged ; Despair and melancholy were solemnly depicted on his brow ; On the one hand he beheld his dwelling wrapped in flames, & on the other, his companion in arms falling by his side praying, while the lamp of life was glimmering in its socket, for the salvation of his country ; He saw the field of battle flowed with blood, and could view nothing but gloom and adversity in perspective. With these views, he was often ready to exclaim “ alas ! we have engaged in a work which our united exertions can never perform, and my country must sink under the weight of disaster and oppression.” But hope, that “ anchor of the soul,” enabled him to persevere. The triumph at Yorktown soon ended his anxiety and rewarded his virtue. If tears were permitted to tarnish the lustre of Heaven, how would he now weep at the political depravity and degeneracy of those, who would surrender, without a struggle, the fruits of his blood and treasure.

United in defence of our country, we may stand, like a mighty mountain, amidst the thunders of war and “ the crash of worlds.” Our resources are amply sufficient ; our cause is as just as the cause of Heaven ; and the voice of our fathers thunders from the tomb, the solemn injunction, “ dont give up the SHIP !” If our republic falls it falls the *last*, and freedom bids the world adieu. We are defending “ liberty in her last retreat,” and we will not desert her till every fortrels be a Fort Griswold, and every strait a Thermopylæ. With this resolution, let us meet the legions of our enemy on the shore, “ and if compelled to retreat, let the last intrenchment of liberty be our GRAVE.”